

Travelling through Time. Welcome to Chances Park.

Thank you for downloading this activity sheet aimed at children aged 8-14 years. It would be helpful for the parent or adult in charge to also download a copy of the "Chances Park Nature Trail" for additional information. Adults must stress to children that they must not put anything that they find in the park in their mouths, and that they should wash their hands after finishing the activities.

Activity 1: The Mansion House

- We will start our trail at the house, marked number **1** on your map. Do you know the name of the house? Does your house have a name or a number?
- Walk to the edge of the gravelled area and look at the house. The large doorway is at the central point of the main building. The features on either side of the door are symmetrical. Houses built in the Georgian period were often built to be symmetrical. Can you point out some of the symmetrical features of Morton Manor?



Activity 2: A Grand Entrance

- Do you know when Morton Manor was built? Do you know when your house was built? Some very wealthy people have lived in Morton Manor. Can you name any of them? When it was built the people who lived here would have travelled



around by horse drawn carriage. Can you act out a scene where the Lord and Lady of the Manor arrive in a carriage, and the servants of the house stand outside to meet them?

Activity 3: The Georgian Gardens and the Ha-Ha

- We are now going to walk through the Georgian Gardens, marked **2** on your map, to the Ha-Ha, marked **3** on your map. Do you know why the gardens are called Georgian? It's because they were built when the King of England was King George. They were specially designed so that the Lord or Lady of the Manor could walk around the gardens and enjoy the plants and flowers without having to walk very far, or get their hands dirty.
- When you arrive at the Ha-Ha walk carefully along the wall, then run back along the trench.
- Now go and stand on the lawn in front of the house. Look out across the park. The Ha-Ha does not block your view. Ask some people from your group to stand on the wall, and make themselves into a fence. Do they block your view of the rest of the park? The Ha-Ha's job is to stop rabbits or deer from getting at the plants in the Georgian Gardens, without spoiling the view.

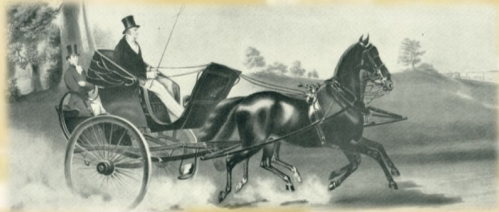


Activity 4: What's in a Name?

- Our trail now moves to the circular seating area, marked **8** on your map. Before Chances Park became a Park it was used for farming. The area where the play area and football pitches are now, used to be called "Rye Close". Why do you think it was called "Rye Close"? The area near to the Manor house was called "Turnip Close". What do you think was grown in that field? Another area was called "Bone Close". What do you think happened there?
- If you were a farmer what would you grow in your field? What would you call the field?

Activity 5: Ridges and Furrows

- Walk along to the area marked **7** on your map. You should be able to spot some grooves and bumps in the ground. These are called Ridges (the bumps) and Furrows (the grooves). This was a way of dividing up the land, and sharing it out between all the different people who worked on the farm.
- Find a ridge to walk along, then walk back along the furrow beside it. Pretend that you are a farmer getting your ridge ready to be planted. The ground will need to be ploughed, or dug up. Choose a friend to be your plough. You will



hold their ankles and steer them as they walk along the ridge on their hands. Swap over at the end of the ridge, and come back.

Activity 6: Pigs and other Animals

- Farmers sometimes kept pigs and other animals in large fields which they shared. We are going to walk to the Oak Tree in front of the house, marked **10** on your map. Imagine that this area is a field where you can keep your pigs. Pigs really like to eat acorns. Can you find any acorns for your pig to eat?

Activity 7: The Ancient Yew

- Walk to the Yew Tree, marked **2** on your map. How old do you think the yew tree is? It is possible that this tree was growing here before Morton Manor was built. Yew trees grew very slowly, and it is almost impossible to kill them. Every part of a yew tree is poisonous to humans, but birds can eat the red berries. Do you know what the wood from yew trees used to be used for?



Activity 8: Back to the Future

- Old maps from 1901 show that there used to be three cottages and a greenhouse on the land next to the wall. They were knocked down in 1939 when Wigton Road was widened. Why do you think the road had to be made wider? Can you hear the sound of the traffic? Imagine a time when there were no cars or lorries.
- Your trail finishes back at the Manor house. As you walk there tell your friend something that you have found out about Chances Park today. Is there anything that you would like to see here in the future?

